K-293

1700-1800?

Anthony's Mill

1800-1899

Near Galena

1900-c. 1918

Located on Mill Creek east of Galena and Georgetown, the site of the old Anthony Mill is to the northeast of the large millpond that was reconstructed in the 1940s in the location of the original millpond that drained when the earthen dam broke circa 1918. From the 1940s to the 1980s the pond, with additions, was used for the owner's fish-hatching and -raising business. He has ascertained the location of the old mill, found old iron gears and mill stones (the latter now gone), and located the site of the miller's house. The area is now a beautiful, carefully-planted and well-maintained wildlife sanctuary, with the large pond a reminder of the period in which numerous mills were an important industrial contribution to the Kent County agricultural economy.

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 1502935704

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

1. Nam	e (indicate p	referred name)				
historic	Site of Anthony's	Mill (preferred); "J	oshua Vansant Mill'	,		
and/or common						
	ation					
street & number,	East end of Mill Lane, .3 mile ea		st of Rt. 213,	not for publication		
city, town	Galena	χ vicinity of	congressional district			
state	Maryland	county	Kent			
3. Clas	sification		•			
Category district building(s) structure _X site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acquisition in process being consideredX not applicable	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestrictedX no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:		
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names ar	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)		
name	Mr. and Mrs. C	linton J. Riley				
street & number	Mill Lane		telephone no	).:		
city, town	Galena,	state	and zip code Maryl	and 21635		
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on			
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. Kent	County Courthouse		liber RAS 23		
street & number	Cros	s Street		folio 205		
city, town	Chestertown		state Maryland			
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv			
title				UNKNOWN		
date			federal state	countyloca		
<b>⊶epository</b> for su	rvey records					
city, town			state			

7. Description			Survey No. K-293			
Site: Conditionexcellentgoodfair	Not applicable  deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered altered	Check one original site moved date of move			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on Mill Creek east of Galena and Georgetown, the site of the old Anthony Mill is to the northeast of the large millpond that was reconstructed in the 1940s in the location of the original mill pond that drained when the earthen dam broke circa 1915-1918. From the 1940s to the 1980s the pond, with additions, was used for the owner's fish hatching and raising business. He has ascertained the location of the old mill (removing its fieldstone foundation), found old iron gears, and located where the miller's house stood. The area is now an idyllic, carefully planted and maintained wildlife sanctuary.

(Continued)

1500 1600 _X 1700 _X 1800	istoric archeology-prehis ⊢1499 _X_ archeology-histor ⊢1599 _X_ agriculture ⊢1699 architecture ⊢1799 art	<pre> economics education engineering</pre>	nning landscape law literature military music tlement philosoph	science sculpture social/ humanitarian y theater
Specific	dates	Builder/Architect	• :	
check:	Applicable Criteria: and/or Applicable Exception:		O _E _F _G	
	Level of Significance	nationalst	atelocal.	
Prepare	both a summary paragra	ph of significance	and a general st	atement of history and

Survey No. K-293

8. Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Grist mills were encouraged by the early Maryland colonial legislatures as necessary for a healthy agricultural economy, and it is likely that this was a particularly early mill location as well as a profitable one. It was close to the eighteenth century town and port of Georgetown and to the cross roads village now called Galena (earlier Georgetown Crossroads). Its location would have been particularly helpful during the Revolutionary War, when the upper Eastern Shore and much of Delaware became noted, because of wheat production, as the "Breadbasket of the Revolution." The county's grain mills were an important early industry for agricultural Kent County, and this site, where the general nature of the old milling operation can still be discerned, documents that fact.

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-293

Martha and Murray Zimiles, <u>Early American Mills</u>. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1973

10. Ge	ograpi	ical Data					
Quadrangle nam	ie	omplete UTM refere			Quadrangle	e scale	
A Zone Eastin		Northing	BZor	 ne Eas	sting	Northing	
G			D F H	J       U         J       U         J       U			
		n and justification	apping state o	r count	y boundaries		
state	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	code	county			code	
state	ž.	code	county			code	
11. For	m Pre	pared By		•			
name/title	Margaret	Q. Fallaw, Survey	Consultant				
organization	•	mmissioners of Ke 1 Society of Kent	•	date	October 4, 778-4600	1985	
street & number	Cross Str	=		teleph	one 778-3499		
city or town	Chesterto	wn		state	Maryland		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

The site of the old Anthony Mill is on the first creek of the Sassafras River to the east of Georgetown and Galena, with Gregg Neck to the east of the creek. On modern maps the creek is called Mill Creek, a rather nonspecific name that has been applied to other Kent County creeks both past and present. This particular Mill Creek earlier was known as what appears to be Crudley's Creek (1877 atlas), probably a corruption or misspelling of Quidley's Creek or Quigley's Creek. There is a 1749 reference to it by that name that also cites it as Plumber's Creek.

The present owner of the mill property and surrounding area bought it in 1939, some twenty years after the dam had washed out and not been repaired. He found it an overgrown, brambly, quite dry ravine with the creek merely trickling through it. It had been used as a dumping ground and for tree cutting. At one time the owner "collected" old mill ponds for his fish-hatching and raising business, owning as many as 26 at once in Maryland and elsewhere. Intending to use it for a fish hatchery, he restored the area to what probably resembles its state when used for a milling operation, with a large pond again extending south from the original dam location to Route 290. He has also added several modern buildings and built a smaller lower pond and several side impoundments for storage of fish. The pond is both spring fed (from the side of Olivet Hill) and fed from several headwaters branches of the creek, though now several owners of the up-creek farms have created farm ponds, possibly reducing the flow. The watershed area of Mill Creek is quite large.

The old mill site, now as well as historically, can be reached from Route 213 by going east on Mill Lane just north of Galena. Mill customers taking this route' had to cross the old earthen dam (and probably a bridge over the millrace, to reach the mill, located just to the northeast of the dam. Historically (at least from the early to middle nineteenth century), the mill owner also had a right-of-way providing access for customers from the east, in the area of the present Route 290 (the Galena-Sassafras Road). After turning north onto what is now the Gregg Neck public road, mill patrons turned west onto the private road leading directly to the mill. This old route is now closed to the public but is evident if one looks closely. The old roadway is low between banks, having been eroded over the years by horse-and-wagon traffic. On each side, after an initial open area, there is a large osage orange hedgerow, very likely planted at the time the right-of-way from Grego Neck Road was acquired and intended to hold the soil of the roadside banks. The hedge also marks the perimeter of the Burns Lots (see below).

Through careful investigation by the present owner, the location of the various elements of the old mill operation can be discerned. He has deduced that in its last years the mill was converted to a turbine operation, with a pipe diverting the flow as desired from the northeast end of the pond and with the old millrace dammed. He found evidences of the old outlet for this purpose. The original millrace also would have been in the same approximate location, flowing northeast and then northwest past the mill itself. At the approximate location of the old mill there is an abrupt drop, down what is (continued)

now a ravine, indicating that an overshot wheel probably was used. In this area he found abandoned an old iron pinion gear, ring gear, and shaft, which he thinks dates from the nineteenth century, perhaps from 1850 or earlier. He believes other parts were removed for the scrap iron. He found evidence that the old overflow outlet was to the west/northwest of the mill pond. Old millstones were also on the property when the present owner purchased it, but they vanished. They were composite stones, radial segments (like pie slices) that were banded together with iron strapping like a wagon wheel. He said the segments were mortared together with oyster-shell lime mortar. Several different types of stones were found, varying in hardness and porosity, used for grinding various types of grain and for the production of varying kinds of products from the grain.

He feels that he has located the site of the old miller's house, to the northeast of the dam but still south of the mill itself. This is consistent with the 1877 atlas map, which shows the house of H. Anthony to the south of the dam and access roads from east and west. The mill itself is shown to the north of the road, directly north of the house. The present owner said that part of the old fieldstone foundation of the mill was present when he bought the property; he removed it. He judged the mill to not have been large. Just to the east of the mill, along the private road leading to Gregg Neck Road, is a house attributed to Thomas Burn, on what came to be known as the Burn's Lots. Totaling about 11 acres, the Burns Lots for many years have been transferred with the 56 acre mill property. Any possible relationship between Burns and the mill operation is now unknown. The old house site was found there, with an open well. The Burns Lots are now somewhat grown up, but the owner keeps the road through them cleared. In the Burns Lots area there is a small graveyard, for at least two people and one dog. The latter is recent. For one of the others there is only a fieldstone. The other has a modern marker placed by the DAR before 1939 that reads "John Anthony, Quartermaster, 6th Pa. Militia, Revolutionary War." The present owner later added to his original 67-acre parcel, accumulating about 88 acres (but then also selling small areas in the vicinity of Route 290).

The present owner estimates that the large, upper pond is about 40 acres while the lower pond he constructed (where formerly there were only marsh and mud flats) is about 7 acres. Below the smaller pond (to the north of the larger pond) the creek is shallow, mostly mud flats at low tide. Historically the creek may also been used for access to the mill, when perhaps the creek bed was not as silted as it has become. The entire mill site is now a beautiful, rather idyllic site that has not only been cleaned up but planted by the now 98-year-old owner, who propagates and cultivates numerous plants (some exotic) and maintains the area as a wildlife sanctuary. He hopes to see it preserved in its present state and so is negotiating with the Natural Lands Trust, Baltimore. The ponds are no longer used for the owner's fish hatching business, which he practiced here from about 1945 to 1983, when there was a major fish kill possibly due to runoff of pesticides from nearby farmlands that drain into the ponds.

On the high ground at the end of the mill lane from Galena and west of (continued)

the large pond he has built a modern brick one-storey house. At the foot of the lane from the end of Mill Lane, along the old roadway that still continues to and across the dam, he once built a house but later removed it. Farther back from the pond western shore he then built a two-storey structure. It was intended to house garages and a shop for his live-fish raising and hauling business on the first storey and apartments for his drivers on the second, though it was never used for that purpose. The first storey is now used for a shop and general work space.

John McGrain's typescript "The Molinography of Kent County" (1971) includes a reference to a Joshua Vansant mill right that was probably for a mill on the site. On December 2, 1749 (Chancery, IR 5/42) he took out a writ of ad quod damnum on Quigleys Creek (also called Plumbers Creek). "The jurors found 19 acres in possession of William Rasin [known to also have Georgetown property] and one acre in possession of John and George Browning. Total damages were three shilings yearly."

For much of the nineteenth century, and perhaps the latter part of the eighteenth century as well, the mill was owned and perhaps operated by successive members of the Anthony family, evidently originally from Pennsylvania. The name H[enry]. Anthony is shown on the 1877 atlas map of Kent County adjacent to the old mill building and mill house, though William A. Miller may have owned it at that time (from about 1862 to about 1883 at least). The February 24, 1883, Kent County News noted that W. J. Spicer purchased the mill, known as Miller's Mill, for \$2,000. Shortly afterward (issue of March 24, 1883) it was stated that William A. Fowler has rented the Miller Mill near Galena and will grind wheat, corn and chops. Between Anthony ownership and Miller's ownership, Aaron L. (or J.) Gooding seems to have owned it. The Gooding family seems to have owned more than one Kent County mill during this period.

According to Miss Mary Caldwell, now of Chestertown but originally of Galena, the old dam (on which she remembers skating) broke circa 1914-1918. Because of coinciding with technological changes in grain processing and changes in marketing, the pond and dam were never restored. The area was an overgrown wasteland until bought by the present owner in 1939.

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